

# DC Special Presenters Initiative

## 2014-2015

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, February 21, 2014

### PROJECT PERIOD

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation ("MAAF"), in partnership with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities ("DCCAH"), offers a special funding initiative to support the presentation of professional performing artists/ensembles at venues within the District of Columbia that expand or diversify presenter programming and increase access to and appreciation for the performing arts. The initiative is designed to support performing arts engagements and related activities that would not otherwise be possible. District-based nonprofit organizations that meet the eligibility criteria are invited to apply.

Proposals should expand or diversify programming beyond what has been presented in recent years and demonstrate a commitment to reaching underserved audiences. For the purposes of this program, an underserved community is one in which individuals lack access to the arts due to geography, economic conditions, ethnic background, disability, or age. This initiative is primarily designed to help small to mid-sized organizations and programs with modest-sized project budgets where the grant(s) will make a significant impact on the organization's ability to carry out the activity.

Priority consideration will be given to the following:

- projects involving artists or performing arts genres with whom applicants have little or no prior presenting history or whose fees have been beyond an applicant's means;
- organizations with an annual operating budget of less than \$500,000; and
- projects reaching underserved audiences.

### APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

***Organizations applying for funding from the DC Special Presenters Initiative must:***

- have their principal place of business located in the District of Columbia;
- be a cultural or community-based organization or college or university involved in the regular presentation of performing artists (For the purposes of this program, a presenter is defined as an organization that selects and engages touring artists to perform work before general audiences in its communities. Presenters manage all the local requirements for the performance and facilitate interaction between artists and audiences);
- be designated by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization;
- have United States Internal Revenue Service and DC tax exempt status **at least one year prior** to the application deadline; and
- be in good standing with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities and Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation at the time of application, with no overdue or outstanding required reports and/or grant documents.

### PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

***All projects must include:***

- a public performance by a professional performing artist/ensemble (For the purposes of this program, a professional artist is someone who receives a significant portion of his or her annual income from artistic activities; has a demonstrated record of achievement (e.g., awards, honors, fellowships, grants) within their chosen artistic discipline; and has a record of tour readiness as evidenced by regional, national, or international touring experience.) from outside the District of Columbia but based in one of MAAF's other partner states or jurisdictions (DE, MD, NJ, NY, PA, VA, WV, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) or from outside the United States. Artists from Maryland or Virginia must be based at least 50 miles outside of the District of Columbia for consideration; and
- at least one complementary activity that builds greater appreciation for the proposed artists and/or their art form; Complementary activities may include, but are not limited to exhibitions, lecture/demonstrations, master classes, residencies, workshops and other creative approaches to engage the community in the work of the artist(s) and/or art form(s) to be presented.

***The DC Special Presenters Initiative will not fund:***

- projects taking place outside of the District of Columbia;
- producing organizations that solely create their own artistic work or assemble artists to perform as ensembles for performances;

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- projects or events in which the artist/ensemble is not the primary focus of the performance;
- projects or events that exclusively or primarily serve a confined audience, such as K-12 schools, university classes, summer camps, nursing homes, etc. (Complementary activities serving a confined audience but presented in conjunction with a performance open to the general public are acceptable.);
- projects or events that are commercial in nature or in which the arts are not the primary focus (e.g., sidewalk sales, food festivals, firework displays, etc.);
- fundraising events;
- a series of performances by different artists or groups;
- service organizations and DC Public and Charter Schools or government agencies;
- general operating expenses; or
- artists on MAAF's 2014-2015 Mid Atlantic Tours roster.

Organizations applying for support through the DC Special Presenters Initiative cannot apply for funding to support the same engagements through MAAF's ArtsCONNECT program.

### APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- artistic excellence of the artist/ensemble as evidenced by submitted work samples and records of achievement, including awards, honors, grants, and performance history;
- organizational capacity to carry out the proposed project as defined by the extent to which the financial, human and marketing resources allocated for the project are appropriate and reasonable;
- quality of the proposed project as defined by project planning and design; and
- demonstrated expansion or diversification of the organization's typical programming.

### GRANT AMOUNTS AND ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

Applicants may apply for up to \$2,000 per project for a maximum of two projects. Applicants may apply for up to 50% of the artist/ensemble's fee plus travel and lodging expenses, marketing and production costs, and complementary activities associated with the engagement of the proposed artist. Grant requests must be a minimum of \$500.

Grants must be matched on a one-to-one basis. The match may not include federal funds whether they are received directly from a federal agency or indirectly, such as through a state agency or other entity.

### APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications for the DC Special Presenters Initiative must be completed and submitted through the eGRANT® online application at <http://midatlanticarts.egrant.net>.

No hard copy of the application should be sent to Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation with the sole exception of a signed Certification & Statement of Assurances page. A hard copy of the Certification & Statement of Assurances page can be generated only after a successful electronic application submission by an applicant. The Certification & Statement of Assurances page, signed in **blue ink**, should be mailed to the following address:

**DC Special Presenters Initiative  
Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation  
201 North Charles Street, Suite 401  
Baltimore, MD 21201**

Certification & Statement of Assurances pages **sent via fax or e-mail will not be accepted for consideration.**

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

**Friday, February 21, 2014 for projects taking place between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.**

Applications must be SUBMITTED through the eGRANT® online system on or before the published deadline. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered for review. No hard copies of the application, with the exception of the Certification & Statement of Assurances page, will be accepted for consideration.

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The signed hard copy of the Certification & Statement of Assurances page mailed to Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation must be postmarked within one week of the application deadline.

If you have questions about project eligibility or the application process, please contact Michelle Grove, MAAF Program Officer, Performing Arts at [michelle@midatlanticarts.org](mailto:michelle@midatlanticarts.org).

## NOTIFICATION

Notification of awards will be made in early-May 2014.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND REQUIRED MATERIALS

Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities use the eGRANT® online application system for the DC Special Presenters Initiative. To access the eGRANT® application, please visit <http://midatlanticarts.egrant.net>.

**NOTE: Applicants who apply for two projects must submit a separate application for each.**

The Special Presenters Initiative eGRANT® application includes the following:

1. Application and Engagement Information
2. Presenter Programming Profile
3. Application Narrative
4. Project Budget
5. Certificate & Statement of Assurances

The following required materials are to be submitted electronically as attachments to the Special Presenters Initiative eGRANT® application:

1. Two recent work samples uploaded through the eGrant application. Please refer to the Work Sample page in the eGRANT® for more detailed information about how to prepare and upload work samples.

**Please note:** Although the eGRANT® application and required materials are submitted electronically, your application is not complete until Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation has received a hard copy of your signed Certification & Statement of Assurance page. This must be signed by an official of the organization with authority to commit the applicant to the legal and fiscal requirements of the grant. This must be mailed in hard copy with original signatures in **blue ink**. Do not print and send hard copies of any other portions of your application.

MID ATLANTIC  
**ARTS** FOUNDATION



DC COMMISSION ON  
THE ARTS & HUMANITIES